



TOWN OF MANSFIELD

OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

YSB Advisory Minutes
December 9th, 2014
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Kate Bohannon, YSB Social Worker
Makayla Lamson, E.O Smith Student Representative
Larry Barlow, MMS Assistant Principal
Pat Schneider, Director of Human Services
Eileen Griffin, LCSW
Chuck Leavens, E O Smith Counselor
Sara Anderson, Early Childhood Coordinator

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:05 PM by Ethel Mantzaris.

II. Approval of minutes

- 10/14/14

III. Reports

- Director's Report – Patricia Schneider
 - Holiday Program is successful, more than 100 children have been sponsored in the program, and 180 families received Thanksgiving dinner through the Food Share Program. Human Services is working to adjust the focus of the holiday wish lists to make the lists meaningful and helpful to donors. Youth Services and Human Services are also working together to help family get involved in our other programs.
- Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak
 - **Sibling Group**: There were not enough interested families to run the program at this time. We are looking into facilitating a joint group with

Parks and Recreation to provide activities for children with disabilities and the hope is that through that we will be able to engage their siblings as well.

- **PAWS**: Candace Morell, MMS school principal, has given us permission to invite a group of 7th and 8th grade students to attend the PAWS leadership conference in March and we are participating in the planning of this regional conference.
- **Mommy and Me**: YSB staff has identified families with young children who are participating in the Holiday adopt-a-family program. Staff reached out to these families and many were interested in a Mommy and Me program. We will be starting this program in January.
- **NECASA**: Grant was funded for \$4,200 which is used to run our youth development and parent programs.
- **Volunteer Programs**: In the first semester YSB had over 50 UCONN volunteers involved in the Cope and Big Friends programs. The majority of these volunteers are returning for the second semester to continue mentoring the same child. Former Mansfield students on break from college contacted us looking for volunteer opportunities and we are coordinating meaningful opportunities for them.
- **Training**: YSB staff attended the following trainings
 1. Pat: “Domestic Violence Across Communities: Strengthening Access for All Victims”
 2. Kate: “The Unholy Trinity: ADD, ODD, and Conduct Disorder”
“Stress Management: Empowering Anxious Children and Teens”
 3. Sara: “Stone Soup Conference”
“Preventing Sexual Harassment”
- **UConn Work/Life Expo**: Staff attended the expo at UCONN to raise awareness of programs and services.
- **Parenting Workshop**: YSB supported Goodwin school in their initiative to offer a parenting workshop to all families in the community. The workshop was well attended and the presenter, Ruth Freidman, was well received.
- **STEAP Grant Application**: Sara Anderson prepared the application for funding for the playground which did not receive Town Council’s approval for submission.

- **Early Childhood Health Data Institute**: Sara Anderson participated in data collection for the Early Childhood Health Data Institute. These are the beginning steps of creating an accurate local database for child health.

IV. Old Business:

- None

V. New Business:

- Sara Anderson: Playground Project
 - Recently Sara applied for a town grant of \$490,000, including the budget for the \$278,000 needed for the actual cost of the playground and the extra money going to the master plan of constructing a picnic pavilion, extra parking, a walking path in the woods, and accessibility. This grant was not approved by the Council

VI. Other:

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:40. January 13th, 2014 is the next meeting.